

# 2018

# MIGRATORY BIRDS

WATERFOWL ■ SANDHILL CRANE ■ MOURNING DOVE ■ SNIFE

**FWP** Montana Hunting Regulations



Wood duck | *Aix sponsa* | Photo by Brandon Kiesling

Apply for General Licenses, Special Licenses, and SuperTags Online: [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov)

**TURN IN POACHERS: 1-800-TIP-MONT**

## Regulations Adopted by F&W Commission

These regulations and final quotas were adopted under the authority granted to the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission (F&W Commission) per MCA, Section 87-1-301 and are valid March 1, 2018, through February 28, 2019. Final regulations were adopted by the F&W Commission on April 19, 2018. Martha Williams, Director.

## What's New and Reminders

### What's New

- Increased the daily pintail bag limit from 1 to 2 in both flyways.
- Longer season for sandhill crane special permit areas.
- Increased the Broadwater County 390-01 sandhill crane permits.

### Reminders

- Be aware of split seasons and carefully note closed and open days for hunting and note zone differences.
- The Central Flyway is divided into two "Zones" in order to increase opportunity (see map on page 9). The two zones have different season dates. The smaller zone, Zone 2 includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone Counties. Zone 1 includes all other counties in the Central Flyway portion of Montana.

## License Requirements

The following licenses are available at all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, FWP license providers throughout the state, and online at <http://fwp.mt.gov>. **Exception:** The Federal Migratory Bird Stamp (Federal Duck Stamp) is available from the USPS as well as all Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices. The license is valid March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019. The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and older must carry on his/her person a Federal Migratory Bird Stamp that is validated by the hunter signing the stamp in ink across the face of the stamp.

### Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All migratory bird hunters in Montana, as well as in all other states, are required to take part in a National Harvest Survey Program. To comply with HIP, you must complete a survey including your name, address and date of birth before you can purchase your Montana Migratory Bird License. In addition, you will be asked to respond to several questions about your hunting experience in Montana during last year's season.

To learn about Montana's Migratory Bird Wetland Program and how your state "duck stamp" dollars are spent, go to:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/wildlife/programs/migratoryBirds>

Licensing Requirements						
	Ducks, Geese, and Swans			Cranes, Doves, and Snipe		
	12 to 15	16 to 17	18+	12 to 15	16 to 17	18+
Federal Migratory Bird Stamp	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
MT Migratory License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Conservation License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Base hunting License	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost						
	Resident			Non-Resident		
	12 to 15	16 to 17	18+	12 to 15	16 to 17	18+
Federal Migratory Bird Stamp	NA	\$25.00	\$25.00	NA	\$25.00	\$25.00
MT Migratory License	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$6.50	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Conservation License	\$8.00			\$10.00		
Base hunting License	\$10.00			\$15.00		

## Hunter Education and Youth Hunting Opportunities

If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course (or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province) prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

### Youth Hunters – there are two ways to be a youth hunter:

1. An **Apprentice Hunter** is a resident or nonresident at least 10 years of age certified at an FWP office. This allows the apprentice to hunt some species, while accompanied by a mentor, without first completing a hunter education course. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase a mountain lion, black bear or wolf license or apply for a bighorn sheep license or a hunting license or permit with a limited quota. The Apprentice Hunter may not purchase an elk license if he/she is under 15 years of age. Other restrictions apply. See our website for details at:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/all/apprenticeHunter/default.html>

2. A resident or nonresident youth **12-17 years of age** may hunt any game species for which their license is valid. Those who will reach 12 years of age by January 16, 2019 may hunt any game species, for which their license is valid, after August 15 of the 2018 license year. Proof of hunter education must be presented at the time of purchase.

## Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt September 22-23, 2018 – Youth 10 to 15

years old may participate in a special two-day early hunt for waterfowl during Sept 22-23. A youth 10-15 participating as an Apprentice Hunter must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult mentor at least 21 years of age. Otherwise, youth 12-15 who are Hunter Education Certified must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult at least 18 years of age.

## Drawing Process

### Permit Applications –

- Online at <http://fwp.mt.gov> no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT:
- **Sandhill Crane** special permit by **July 26**.
- **Swan** special permit by **August 30**.
- By mail - applications must include the \$5 **NON-REFUNDABLE** drawing fee and must be received by FWP Helena Headquarters no later than 5 p.m. MDT July 26 for crane or August 30 for swan. Applications are available at all FWP regional and area offices or may be downloaded from the FWP website at <http://fwp.mt.gov>.
- Over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters.
- Applicants must possess a current year Conservation & Base Hunting License to apply.
- Successful applicants will be required to purchase a Montana Migratory Bird License and Federal Migratory Stamp if necessary as specified in these regulations.

**FWP website – <http://fwp.mt.gov>** – The FWP website offers a variety of information to help you plan your hunt. You'll find maps, regulations, and links to road reports, weather service sites and other fish, wildlife and parks resources. Also check <http://mt.gov>, the official state website, for a wide variety of information on Montana.

## License and Permit Possession and Use

A hunter may purchase only one Migratory Game Bird License per year.

All migratory game bird hunters must carry on their person the required license(s).

### It is unlawful to:

- Hunt or attempt to hunt for any game animal unless the person is carrying the required license or permit at the time.
- Refuse to produce a license or permit and the identification used in purchasing a license or permit for inspection to a game warden.
- Alter or change a license in any material manner.
- Loan or transfer any license to another person.
- Use a license issued to another person.
- Attach the person's license to a game animal killed by another person.
- Have physical control over a valid and unused hunting license or permit issued to another person while in any location that the species to be hunted may inhabit; This prohibition does not apply to a person who is carrying or has physical control over a license or permit issued to that person's spouse or to any minor when the spouse or minor is hunting with that person.

## Lawful Methods for Hunting Migratory Birds

**Method of Taking** – Migratory birds may be taken only with long, recurve or compound bow and arrow or shotgun not larger than ten gauge incapable of holding more than three shells and fired from the shoulder.

### You can hunt migratory game birds, including waterfowl, on, over or from:

- standing crops or flooded standing crops, including aquatic plants.
- standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.
- flooded harvested croplands.
- lands or areas where grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural harvesting or normal agricultural post-harvest manipulation.
- lands or areas where top-sown seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, or a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use

of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.

- standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as the result of hunters entering or leaving the area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds. Hunters are cautioned that while conducting these activities, any intentional scattering of grains will create a baited area.

## Unlawful Methods for Hunting Migratory Birds

### It is unlawful to –

- Interfere with or hinder the lawful taking of a migratory game bird.
- Post state or federal land other than that done by a state or federal land agency.

### No persons shall take migratory game birds –

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sink box or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind.
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.
- By the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of, or resulting in, the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, borrow pit or right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, in the State of Montana, MCA 61-8-369).

- No person shall take migratory birds by driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in range of the hunter; or by the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement). Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited 10 days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation.

- It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait per Montana law. Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction.

**Baiting** – Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.11 and 20.21(i). You cannot hunt waterfowl or any other migratory game bird by the aid of baiting on or over any baited area where you know or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. Baiting is the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could lure or attract migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. A baited area is any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds.

**The 10-Day Rule:** A baited area remains off limits to hunting for 10 days after all salt, grain or other feed has been completely removed. Waterfowl will habitually still be attracted to the same area even after the bait is gone. The 10-day rule recognizes that removing bait does not remove the lure created and that waterfowl will still be attracted to the area.



**Nontoxic Shot** – No person may take ducks, geese, swans or coots while possessing shot (either in shot shells or as loose shot for muzzle loading) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see:

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/nontoxic.php>

Nontoxic shot is not required for webless migratory birds (Sandhill Crane, Mourning Dove and snipe) except on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved non-toxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please inquire at the local refuge office.

**Whooping Cranes** – Whooping cranes are protected by law. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take this bird. If a whooping crane is sighted, please call 406-444-2612. For more information on distinguishing Sandhill Cranes and waterfowl from the protected, endangered whooping crane, you may go to the following website:

<http://fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/hunting/cranes.php>

## General Regulations

**Check Stations** – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

**Possession Limit while in the Field** – No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field, or while returning from the field to one's vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

**Possession Limit** – The number of birds that may be possessed at any time in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned, or preserved.

**Possession of Live Birds** – Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

**Transporting Waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Mourning Doves & Snipe** –

- **Species Identification Requirement** – No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

- **Tagging** – No person shall give, put or leave any migratory birds at any place or in custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information: 1) the hunter's signature; 2) the hunter's address; 3) the total number of birds involved, by species; 4) the dates such birds were killed. Tagging is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage (including temporary storage), shipment or taxidermy services.

- **Shipping** – No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (1) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (2) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (3) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

**Shooting Hours** – Authorized shooting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset each day of the hunting season unless otherwise stated in the regulations. See official sunrise-sunset tables on page 11 in these regulations.

## Hunter Land Access

*Hunters, it is your responsibility to know where you are, to know who owns the land, and to know what access restrictions apply.*

**Fishing Access Sites** – Many of Montana's Fishing Access Sites (FAS) offer hunting opportunities, however certain restrictions may apply such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Refer to the Fishing Access Site website at <https://myfwp.mt.gov/fishMT/explore> for site specific information, opportunities and restrictions.

**Montana State Parks** – Some of Montana's State Parks provide hunting opportunities; however certain restrictions may apply such as no-hunting safety zones and/or restrictions on the type of hunting weapon or firearm that may be used. Contact the specific park and/or refer to the Montana State Park website at <http://stateparks.mt.gov> for site specific information regarding hunting opportunities and restrictions.

**Private Land Access** – Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land.

- Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the land owner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property, regardless of whether the land is posted or not.
- Access to public land through private land requires permission of the private

land owner, lessee, or their agent.

- Hunters must obtain permission before retrieval of wildlife from private lands.

## Public Land Access

- National Parks are closed to hunting.
- National Wildlife Refuge lands are closed except those areas designated open to public hunting. For hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges or Federal Waterfowl Production Areas, inquire at the local refuge office.
- For hunting opportunities on federal lands such as U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management, inquire at the local Federal office.
- Access to public lands through private land requires permission of the private landowner, lessee, or their agent.

**National Wildlife Refuges** – More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations visit: <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeLocatorMaps/Montana.html>

**Railroad Access** – Railroads and railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission, nor should they be used as access to other lands (private or public) without explicit permission from the railroad. Consult the individual railroad for details.

**State School Trust Lands** – A conservation license provides hunters and anglers lawful access to State School Trust Lands. Information regarding the rules, regulations, and restrictions governing these activities is available from FWP or contact DNRC at 406-444-2074.

**State Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)** which provide big game winter range are closed to public entry from the day following the end of the general deer/elk season or December 1, whichever is later to noon on May 15 each year, as posted.

- **Exception:** Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA closes November 10. From November 11 through the remainder of hunting season that portion of Cottonwood Creek lying downstream from the bridge (at WMA headquarters) including the ditch and pond (DU pond) that are connected to the creek will remain open to hunting for ducks and geese only, as posted.
- **Exception:** Kootenai Falls WMA is open year long; Porcupine (Gallatin), Dome Mountain, Bear Creek and Wall Creek WMAs open May 1.
- Canyon Ferry WMA designated access gates for Ponds 2, 3 and 4 will be opened at Noon the day prior to the opening of the Youth and General Waterfowl Seasons.

**Stream Access** – Migratory game bird hunting between the ordinary high water marks of streams and rivers is lawful. However, landowner permission must be obtained to hunt or retrieve on private lands adjacent to waterways.

**Tribal Land** – Hunters hunting migratory birds on Indian Reservations should check Indian Reservation regulations. State regulations apply to deeded land and the Bighorn River within the Crow Indian Reservation. The State of Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative management agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for migratory bird regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call FWP at 406-752-5501 or the Tribes at 406-883-2888 ext 7200.

### Waste of Game

**Wanton Waste** – No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this part without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his/her actual custody. **Note:** Under Montana regulations it is unlawful to waste any part of a game bird suitable for food, which includes the breasts of birds the size of a teal duck or smaller and the breasts and thighs of all birds larger than a teal duck. This is more restrictive than federal regulations.

### General Information

**Duck Identification** – Most FWP Regional Offices have free waterfowl ID guides. A duck identification guide can be found at the website:

<https://centralflyway.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/cf-waterfowl-id.pdf>

or

<http://flyways.us/duck-identification-resources>

**Reporting Banded Birds** – Internet reporting of bird bands is encouraged and may be easily done by going to:

<http://www.reportband.gov>

In most cases you will quickly receive information on when and where a bird was banded.

**Waterfowl Information** – The [flyways.us](http://flyways.us) website and a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service site have links to a lot of information, including the waterfowl status report (available in August) and [aerial and ground blogs](http://www.flyways.us) from the May breeding waterfowl survey. Go to: <http://www.flyways.us> or <https://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php>

**Eurasian Collared Doves** – An exotic species now found throughout much of Montana, especially in and near cities and towns. They are:

- An unprotected species, as designated by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission, that may be taken

without license, season, or limit. They do not count against a hunter's Mourning Dove limit.

- Different from a Mourning Dove in that they are larger, have a rounded tail rather than a pointed one, and they have a black ring around the back of the neck.

### Statewide Closures

**Region 2, Warm Springs Pond No. 3 (Deer Lodge County):** An area of land comprising portions of Sections 1, 2 11 and 12, T4N R10, portions of Sections 30 and 31, T5N, R9W, and portions of Sections 25 and 36, T5N, R10W, described as follows: Beginning at the junction of Interstate 90 and the Opportunity Road; then northerly on said road to the northerly base of the dike of Warm Springs Settling Pond No. 3; then northwesterly along the base of said dike to the area road passing through the Mill-Willow Bypass; then due west from junction of base of said dike and road to Interstate 90 (as posted), then southerly along said interstate to its junction with Opportunity Road, the point of beginning.

**Region 3, Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir (Lewis & Clark County):** The Bureau of Reclamation Regulating Reservoir located in Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, T10N, R2W in the Helena Valley as posted. (This area will be open to hunting until the opening of the waterfowl season, then it will be closed to all hunting.)

**Region 3, South Half of Lake Helena (Lewis & Clark County):** Beginning at a point in the southwest part of Lake Helena to be marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction to the south shore, then south approximately ½ mile, then in an easterly direction 1-1/2 miles, then north ¼ mile, then east ¾ mile to the west bank of the BLM drain ditch D-7, then down the west bank of the drain ditch to the lake and out into the lake a distance of 400 yards to a point marked by a red buoy, then in a southwesterly direction across the lake to the point of beginning in parts of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, T11N, R3W, and in parts of Sections 19 and 30, T11N, R2W. This area is closed to the hunting, harassment, or molesting of migratory waterfowl except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area.

**Region 3, Portion of the Manhattan Game Closure:** Beginning at the intersection of the west bank of the West Gallatin River and Interstate 90, then running west along the south boundary of said Interstate to a point near the interstate which leads to the ranch entrance of the R. A Young Ranch, then southwesterly to the east bank of the Spring Creek irrigation canal, then southwesterly along the east bank of

said canal to the closest point to the Perk's Canal, then (as posted) westerly to the Perk Canal, then southerly along the east bank of the Perk Canal to Camp Creek, then southerly along the southeast side of Camp Creek to a left fork known as Spring Creek, then southerly along the southeast bank of Spring Creek to the south line of Section 23, T1N, R3E, then east along the south line of Sections 23 and 24, T1N, R3E, and Section 19 T1N, R4E, to the West Gallatin River, then north along the west bank of said river to its intersection with Interstate 90, the point of beginning.

**Region 4, Freezout Wildlife Management Area: (Teton County):** SW1/4, Section 19, Sections 29 and 30, T22N, R3W, W1/2 Section 12, W1/2 of E1/2 Section 12, and that portion of Sections 13 and 24 within the posted boundary of the Freezout Wildlife Management Area, T22N, R4W. This area will be open to upland game bird hunting until the opening of the general waterfowl season. From the opening of the waterfowl season through November 19, no hunting, access or harassment of wildlife will be allowed except for the direct and immediate foot, boat or dog retrieval of downed game having fallen in the closed area. This area will then reopen for all hunting from November 20 to the end of the season.

**Region 4, Missouri River (Cascade County):** The Missouri River below the ordinary high water inclusive of all islands, backwaters, and sandbars, beginning at the confluence of Sand Coulee Creek and the Missouri River, Section 36, T20N, R3E, then downstream to Black Eagle Dam, Section 6, T20N, R4E.

**Region 6, McLean Reservoir (Hill County):** Approximately 2,560 acres located in Sections 16, 17 20, 21, T36N, R15E.

**Region 6, Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County):** All of those parts of Nelson Reservoir and within 300 yards of its shoreline within the following described sections: Sections 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35, T32N, R32E; and Sections 25 and 26, T32N, R31E; and Section 1, T31N, R31E; and Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6, T31N, R32E.

**Region 6, Sands Lake (Hill County):** SW ¼, Section 18, T32N, R16E.

**Region 7, Treasure & Rosebud Counties:** Beginning at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone Rivers, then east down the Yellowstone River to the Rosebud-Custer County line, east of Hathaway, Montana (as posted). This closure shall be within the confines of the normal stream flow and shall include all islands, backwaters and sandbars.



# Statewide – Snipe • Mourning Dove • Sandhill Cranes

## Snipe

### Common (Wilson's) Snipe

- Sept 1 - Dec 16– Bag limit: 8 daily and 24 in possession.

## Mourning Dove

### Mourning Dove

- Sept 1 - Oct 30– Bag limit: 15 daily and 45 in possession.

*It is unlawful to shoot Mourning Doves resting on utility lines or fixtures adjacent to those lines.*

## Sandhill Cranes - Special Drawing Permit

All Sandhill Crane hunting in the Pacific Flyway and in Wheatland, Meagher and Golden Valley Counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 is by special permit only. Consult local FWP office or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov> for permit information.

**Application deadline is July 26.**

To apply in writing, send application and \$5 **NON-REFUNDABLE** drawing fee to FWP, POB 200701, Helena MT, 59620, Attn: Special Licensing by 5 p.m. MDT on July 26, 2018.

- Applicants must possess a current year Conservation License and a Base Hunting License to apply.
- Applicants may apply for only one area and must specify the hunting area for which they are applying.

### 280-01: 5 permits. Valid only in Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County.

- Sept 1 - Oct 28– Bag and Possession limit: 1 Sandhill Crane.

#### Warm Springs portion of Deer Lodge County:

those portions of Deer Lodge County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the intersection of I-90 and Highway 273, then westerly along Highway 273 to the junction of Highway 1, then southeast along said highway to Highway 275 at Opportunity, then east along said highway to East Side County Road, then north along said road to Perkins Lake, then west on said lane to I-90, then north on said interstate to the junction of Highway 273, the point of beginning. Except for sections 13 and 24, T5N, R10W; and Warm Springs Pond number 3.

### 284-01: 40 permits. Valid only in Ovando-Helmville area.

- Sept 1 - Oct 28 – Bag and Possession limit: 2 Sandhill Cranes. Successful applicants will receive two 284-01 Sandhill Crane Licenses.

**Ovando-Helmville area:** that portion of the Pacific Flyway, located in Powell County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the junction of State Routes 141 and 200, then west along Route 200 to its intersection with the Blackfoot River at Russell Gates Fishing Access Site (Powell-Missoula County line), then southeast along said river to its intersection with the Ovando-Helmville Road (County Road 104) at Cedar Meadows Fishing Access Site, then south and east along said road to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its junction with State Route 200, the point of beginning.

### 380-01: 120 permits. Valid only in Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson and Madison Counties.

- Sept 1 - Oct 28 – Bag and Possession limit: 2 Sandhill Cranes. Successful applicants will receive two 380-01 Sandhill Crane Licenses.

### 390-01: 20 permits. Valid only in Broadwater County.

- Sept 1 - Oct 28– Bag and Possession limit: 1 Sandhill Crane.

### 586-01: 50 permits. Valid only in Golden Valley, Wheatland and Meagher Counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90.

- Sept 1 - Oct 28 – Bag and Possession limit: 2 Sandhill Cranes. Successful applicants will receive two 586-01 Sandhill Crane Licenses.

### 599-00: 20 permits. Valid only in Carbon County

- Sept 1 - Oct 28 – Bag and Possession limit: 2 Sandhill Cranes. Successful applicants will receive two 599-00 Sandhill Crane Licenses.

## Sandhill Cranes - Over-the-Counter License

Persons wishing to hunt Sandhill Cranes in the Central Flyway outside of the special drawing permit areas must obtain a free license available from all statewide Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices and license providers.

Bag limit: 3 daily and 9 in possession.

#### Open Season:

- Sept 29 - Nov 25

**Exception 1:** That area south and west of I-90 is closed to the hunting of Sandhill Cranes except for Carbon County with the 599-00 permit.

**Exception 2:** Hunting in Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher Counties and that portion of Sweetgrass County north of I-90 can only be done with a 586-01 permit.

## Special Two-Day Youth Waterfowl Season

September 22-23, 2018 – Statewide

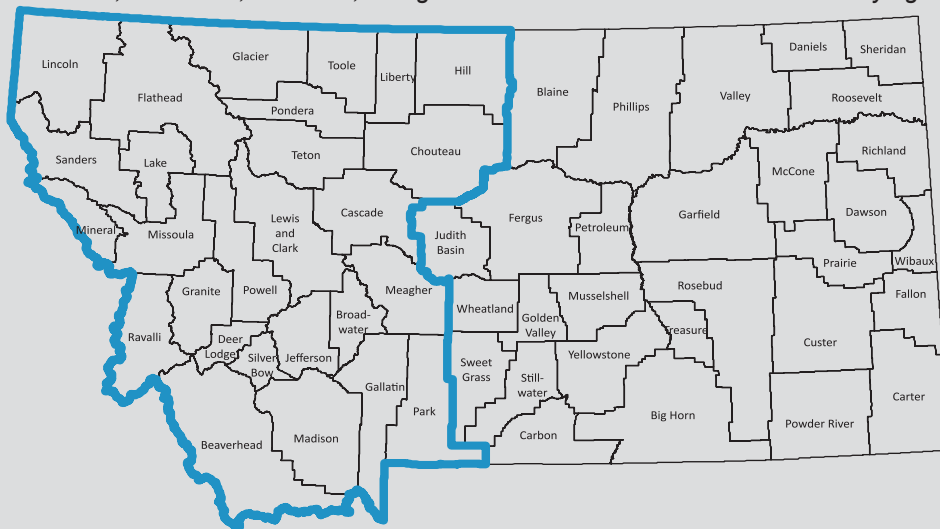
The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing two additional days to provide a special hunting opportunity to encourage youth participation in waterfowling. Lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under may hunt ducks, mergansers, geese and coots statewide on these days. The bag limit, shooting hours, and all other regulations that apply to the regular waterfowl season shall apply to this special season.

**Exception:** Canyon Ferry WMA: Shooting hours will be one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to 12 noon September 22 and 23.

# By Flyway – Ducks • Coots • Geese • Swans • Falconry

## Pacific Flyway - Waterfowl

The Pacific Flyway includes Hill, Chouteau, Cascade, Meagher and Park counties and all counties lying west of these.



### Ducks (Including Mergansers)

**Bag limit:** Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks and 3 scaup. Scaup season closes Dec 23. The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

#### Open Season:

- Sept 22 - Sept 23 – Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
- Sept 29 - Dec 23 – Standard bag limit. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Dec 24 - Jan 6 – Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Jan 12 - Jan 16 – Standard bag limit excluding scaup. Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

### Coots

**Bag Limit:** 25 daily and in possession.

#### Open Season:

- Sept 22 - Sept 23 – Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
- Sept 29 - Jan 6 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Jan 12 - Jan 16 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

### Geese

**Daily limit:** 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 4 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

#### Open Season:

- Sept 22 - Sept 23 – Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).
- Sept 29 - Jan 6 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.
- Jan 12 - Jan 16 – Please note Pacific Flyway exceptions.

### Pacific Flyway - Falconry

**Bag Limit:** For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season.

See Exceptions for Ducks, Coots & Geese.

#### Ducks (including Mergansers) and Coots Open Season:

- Sept 29 - Jan 6
- Jan 12 - Jan 16

#### Geese Open Season:

- Sept 29 - Jan 6
- Jan 12 - Jan 16

### Exceptions – Pacific Flyway

#### Ducks, Coots & Geese

**Exception 1:** Canyon Ferry: Sept 29 - October 5, 2018, and the special two-day youth waterfowl season September 22-23, 2018. Hunting hours for all ducks, geese, mergansers and coots shall be one-half hour before sunrise to noon daily; thereafter, October 6, 2018 until close of the season, regular hunting hours apply. See legal description below.

#### Those portions of Broadwater, Lewis and Clark and Jefferson

Counties as follows: Beginning at Canyon Ferry Dam, then in a westerly and southerly direction along State Route 284 to US Highway 287, then east along said highway approximately one-quarter (1/4) mile to the Jefferson-Broadwater County line, then southerly along said line to the SW corner of T7N, R1W, then easterly along the south boundary of said township to its intersection with Indian Creek, then easterly down said creek to its intersection with US Highway 287, then southerly along said highway to its intersection with U. S. Highway 12 at Townsend, then easterly along said highway to the Broadwater-Meagher County line, then northerly along said line to the head of Magpie Gulch, then southerly down said gulch to State Route 284, then westerly along said highway to Canyon Ferry Dam, the point of beginning.

**Exception 2:** Cochrane Reservoir, Morony Reservoir and Ryan Reservoir in Cascade County are closed to waterfowl hunting.

## Swan

Hunting in Cascade, Chouteau, Liberty, Hill, Toole and portions of Teton and Pondera Counties by special swan permit only. Those portions of Teton and Pondera Counties lying west of US Highway 287 from Augusta to Choteau and US Highway 89 from Choteau to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation are **closed to hunting of all swans**. The remainder of the Pacific Flyway within Montana is closed to swan hunting.

Hunting only by special permit.

**Application deadline is August 30.**

Must apply in only one flyway.

Bag limit: 1 swan.

**481-20: 500 permits. Swan hunters must have, as a means of retrieving swans, a watercraft, a dog capable of retrieving or chest-high waders along while hunting the dikes at Freezout.**

• Oct 6 - Dec 1

- Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at <http://fwp.mt.gov> or <http://mt.gov> OR over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than August 30, 2018. All applications must be received by August 30, 2018. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.

**72-Hour reporting requirement** - Federal regulations require that hunters shooting a swan in the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana must complete and return a Swan Bill Measurement Card within 72 hours of harvesting a swan. Bill measurement cards may be returned to Montana FWP by:

- 1) by deposit in regular US mail,  
or
- 2) by deposit in Swan Bill Measurement Card Deposit Boxes situated in numerous locations at Freezout WMA,  
or
- 3) by submitting the card to any FWP office.

# HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES



## CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

**Clean:** Remove all plants and mud from boat, trailer and fishing gear.

**Drain:** Pull your drain plug. Before you leave the area eliminate all water from your boat and gear.

**Dry:** Allow time for your boat and gear to dry completely before launching somewhere else.



 : Protect Our Waters Montana  
 : 406.444.2440



[CleanDrainDryMT.com](http://CleanDrainDryMT.com)

## Avian Influenza

### **National Early Detection Effort**

- Several years ago, a virulent form of bird flu—Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1)—emerged to sicken and kill domestic poultry in Asia, Africa and Europe.
- Montana Wildlife officials are contributing to the national effort to detect the possible arrival of the virulent strain of bird flu that could be brought to North America via migrating waterfowl.
- Part of that effort includes getting help from hunters by collecting samples from harvested waterfowl through routine hunter game checks.
- H5N1 is primarily a disease of birds, not humans. Should H5N1 be detected anywhere in North America, it would not signal the start of a human health crisis.

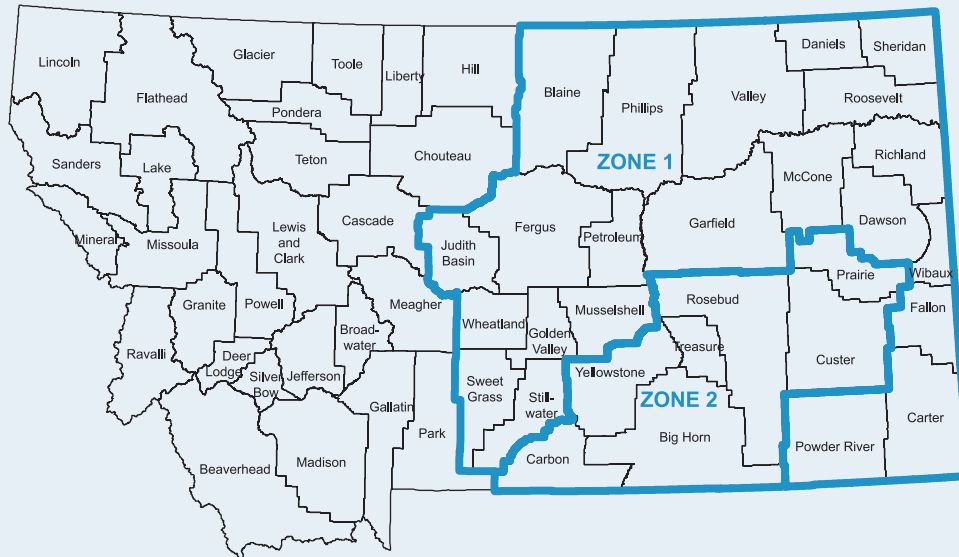
### **Common Sense Precautions**

- Viruses like H5N1 are shed from birds in fecal material and other body fluids; so avoid contact with these materials while plucking and cleaning birds.
- Do not harvest or handle wildlife that is obviously sick or found dead.
- Wear rubber gloves while cleaning game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning game and wash hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after handling game.
- Wash tools and work surfaces used to clean game with soap and water, then disinfect with a 10 percent solution of chlorine bleach—one part chlorine to 9 parts water.
- Separate raw meat, and anything it touches, from cooked or ready-to-eat foods to avoid contamination.
- Cook game meat thoroughly, to an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.



# Central Flyway - Waterfowl

The Central Flyway includes Blaine, Fergus, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater and Carbon counties and all counties lying east of these.



**Zone 1 (Ducks, Coots & Geese):** Includes Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland and Wibaux Counties.

**Zone 2 (Ducks, Coots & Geese):** Includes Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure and Yellowstone Counties.

## Ducks (Including Mergansers)

**Bag limit:** The daily bag limit is 6 ducks or mergansers. The daily bag limit may contain no more than 5 mallards of which no more than 2 may be hens, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 pintails, 2 canvasbacks and 3 scaup. During the first 9 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Sept 29 - Oct 7), the daily bag may include 2 additional blue-winged teal.

The possession limit may not exceed three times the daily bag limit of any species and sex.

### Open Season:

- Sept 22 - Sept 23.— Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).

### Zone 1 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Jan 3

### Zone 2 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Oct 7
- Oct 20 - Jan 15

## Coots

**Bag Limit:** 15 daily. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

### Open Season:

- Sept 22 - Sept 23 — Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).

### Zone 1 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Jan 3

### Zone 2 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Oct 7
- Oct 20 - Jan 15

## Geese

**Daily limit:** 20 white geese (Snow, Blue, Ross's) and 5 dark geese (all other geese). The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

### Open Season:

- Sept 22 - Sept 23 — Only lawfully licensed youth ages 15 and under (see p 2).

### Zone 1 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Jan 6
- Jan 12 - Jan 16

### Zone 2 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Oct 7
- Oct 20 - Jan 23

## Central Flyway - Falconry

**Bag Limit:** For all permitted migratory birds, the bag limit is 2 daily and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, during the regular hunting season and the extended falconry season.

**Falconry – Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots Open Season:**

### Zone 1 (see map)

- Sept 19 - Jan 3

### Zone 2 (see map)

- Sept 19 - Oct 7
- Oct 20 - Jan 15

**Falconry – Geese Open Season:**

### Zone 1 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Jan 6
- Jan 12 - Jan 16

### Zone 2 (see map)

- Sept 29 - Oct 7
- Oct 20 - Jan 23

## Tundra Swan

*Hunting only by special permit.*

**Application deadline is August 30.** Must apply in only one flyway.

**Bag limit:** 1 Tundra swan.

**684-20: 500 permits.**

### Open Season:

- Sept 29 - Jan 3
- Applicants must possess a current year Conservation and Base Hunting License.
- Hunters may apply for a swan special permit online at <http://fwp.mt.gov> or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office no later than August 30, 2018. All applications must be received by August 30, 2018. A special permit application may be downloaded from the FWP website. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Swan Special Permit Drawing, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. Paper applications must be received at FWP by 5 p.m. MDT on August 30.
- Surplus Central Flyway swan special permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis beginning September 20, either online, or over the counter at any FWP regional or area office. For online requests, allow time for a permit, letter, swan tag, and bill card to be mailed to you.

## Lethality Table

The Lethality Table below is intended to help hunters select the most appropriate nontoxic shotshell load for the type of hunting they intend to do. It provides field-tested data collected and analyzed by Tom Roster and the Cooperative North American Shotgun Education Program. Montana was an active member of this program. The database is comprised only of birds taken with one shot at known ranges under normal hunting conditions. All birds were necropsied and x-rayed from two angles. Hunters can find information in the table on shot size selection, maximum effective range for various pellets on different sized birds, and the pattern density needed to achieve a lethal load and cleanly kill a bird.

It takes a combination of penetration and pattern density to effectively harvest a bird. Testing by Tom Roster showed that pellets need to penetrate at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through a bird's body in order to result in a clean kill. The pellets need to strike a lethal area (heart, lungs, spinal column, brain). Also required is a pattern density that, when placed on the front half of a bird, will result in sufficient pellets striking those areas. Developing the shooting skills needed to consistently hit the targeted bird in the front half of the body is a responsibility of an ethical hunter.

Nontoxic shot is not required for webless migratory birds (Sandhill Crane, Mourning dove and snipe) except on national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas. However, it is unlawful for anyone to use or possess a shotgun shell or ammunition loaded with or containing other than federally approved non-toxic shot while hunting, taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, swans or coots. If hunters have specific questions regarding this regulation, please inquire at the local refuge office.

## TOM ROSTER'S 2016 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE<sup>©</sup>

Proven Nontoxic Loads For Waterfowl, Doves, & Upland Game Birds <sup>1</sup> <i>Vel. Range Tested: 1,225 – 1,700 FPS</i>	Observed Hunters' Typical Shooting Range During Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY At The Distances Listed In The Second Column	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) at Distance (Given n Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.86 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were of 12.0 g/cc density and are harder than traditional steel pellets.
ACTIVITY							
Large Geese At Long Range Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-65 50-70	Steel BBB to T HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full	
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	50-55 50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Medium/Small Geese Long Range Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65 50-65	Steel BB to BBB HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Improved Modified Improved Modified, Full	
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50 35-50	Steel 2 to BB HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	60-65 60-65	Light Modified, Modified Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Large Ducks At Long Range Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65 45-65	Steel 2 to 1 HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/8 1-1/4	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	Improved Modified, Full Improved Modified, Full	
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	$\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	85-90 85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds) I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Medium Ducks Over Decoys Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 3 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	115-120 115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds) I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Small Ducks Over Decoys Teal, Ruddy, Bufflehead	20-45 20-45	Steel 6 to 4 HEVI-Shot 6	1 1-1/8	1-2 1-2	135-145 135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds) Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50 20-50	Steel 3 to 2 HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1 1-1/8	2-3 2-3	90-95 90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds) I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4; HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full	
Mourning Doves	20-45 20-45	Steel 8 to 7 HEVI-Shot 7 1/2	$\frac{5}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$	1-2 1-2	200-210 200-210	IC-8's/LM-7's (20-30 Yds); Mod > 30 Yd I.C. (20-30 Yds); Light Mod (30-45 Yd)	
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 8 to 7	$\frac{5}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$	1-2	200-210	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified	
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full	

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the lethality data bases for certain of the 16 U.S. steel vs lead waterfowl & dove shooting tests published between 1968 & 2014 & one steel-only pheasant shooting test (1999) plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP Org.

Note: Steel #BBB (.190") & HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; steel #2 & HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants; & steel 7's (.100") the best all-around performance for taking doves.

<sup>1</sup>These findings are derived from testing 2 3/4" 28 gauge; 3" 20 ga.; 2 3/4", 3" & 3 1/2" 12 ga.; & 3 1/2" 10 ga. steel loads; plus 2 3/4" 28 ga.; 2 3/4" & 3" 20 ga.; and 2 3/4" & 3" 12 ga. HEVI-Shot loads.

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## 2018 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission for hunting in Montana. Authorized hunting hours for the taking of Webless and Migratory Game Birds begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset each day of the hunting season. (Do not use times from other sources). The zones below are groups of counties and do not refer to hunting zones.



### ZONE 1

INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:56	8:15	7:35	7:15	8:19	6:20	8:01	4:49	8:21	4:58
02	6:57	8:13	7:36	7:13	8:20	6:18	8:02	4:49	8:21	4:59
03	6:58	8:11	7:38	7:11	8:22	6:17	8:03	4:49	8:21	5:00
04	7:00	8:09	7:39	7:10	8:23	5:16	8:04	4:48	8:21	5:01
05	7:01	8:07	7:40	7:08	8:24	5:14	8:05	4:48	8:21	5:02
06	7:02	8:05	7:42	7:06	8:26	5:13	8:06	4:48	8:21	5:03
07	7:03	8:03	7:43	7:04	8:27	5:11	8:07	4:48	8:20	5:04
08	7:05	8:01	7:44	7:02	8:29	5:10	8:08	4:47	8:20	5:06
09	7:06	7:59	7:46	7:00	8:30	5:09	8:09	4:47	8:20	5:07
10	7:07	7:58	7:47	6:58	8:32	5:07	8:10	4:47	8:19	5:08
11	7:09	7:56	7:49	6:56	8:33	5:06	8:11	4:47	8:19	5:09
12	7:10	7:54	7:50	6:54	8:35	5:05	8:12	4:47	8:19	5:10
13	7:11	7:52	7:51	6:52	8:36	5:04	8:13	4:48	8:18	5:12
14	7:13	7:50	7:53	6:51	8:38	5:03	8:14	4:48	8:17	5:13
15	7:14	7:48	7:54	6:49	8:39	5:02	8:15	4:48	8:17	5:14
16	7:15	7:45	7:55	6:47	8:41	5:01	8:15	4:48	8:16	5:16
17	7:16	7:43	7:57	6:45	8:42	5:00	8:16	4:48	8:16	5:17
18	7:18	7:41	7:58	6:43	8:43	4:59	8:17	4:49	8:15	5:18
19	7:19	7:39	8:00	6:41	8:45	4:58	8:17	4:49	8:14	5:20
20	7:20	7:37	8:01	6:40	8:46	4:57	8:18	4:50	8:13	5:21
21	7:22	7:35	8:03	6:38	8:48	4:56	8:18	4:50	8:12	5:23
22	7:23	7:33	8:04	6:36	8:49	4:55	8:19	4:51	8:12	5:24
23	7:24	7:31	8:05	6:34	8:50	4:54	8:19	4:51	8:11	5:26
24	7:26	7:29	8:07	6:33	8:52	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:10	5:27
25	7:27	7:27	8:08	6:31	8:53	4:53	8:20	4:52	8:09	5:29
26	7:28	7:25	8:10	6:29	8:54	4:52	8:20	4:53	8:08	5:30
27	7:30	7:23	8:11	6:28	8:56	4:51	8:21	4:54	8:07	5:31
28	7:31	7:21	8:13	6:26	8:57	4:51	8:21	4:55	8:05	5:33
29	7:32	7:19	8:14	6:25	8:58	4:50	8:21	4:55	8:04	5:35
30	7:34	7:17	8:16	6:23	8:59	4:50	8:21	4:56	8:03	5:36
31			8:17	6:21			8:21	4:57	8:02	5:38

### ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:48	8:07	7:27	7:08	8:10	6:13	7:52	4:42	8:12	4:51
02	6:50	8:05	7:28	7:06	8:12	6:11	7:53	4:42	8:12	4:52
03	6:51	8:03	7:30	7:04	8:13	6:10	7:54	4:42	8:12	4:53
04	6:52	8:01	7:31	7:02	8:14	5:08	7:55	4:41	8:12	4:54
05	6:53	7:59	7:32	7:00	8:16	5:07	7:56	4:41	8:12	4:55
06	6:55	7:57	7:34	6:58	8:17	5:06	7:57	4:41	8:12	4:56
07	6:56	7:55	7:35	6:56	8:19	5:04	7:58	4:41	8:12	4:58
08	6:57	7:53	7:36	6:54	8:20	5:03	7:59	4:41	8:11	4:59
09	6:58	7:51	7:38	6:52	8:22	5:02	8:00	4:41	8:11	5:00
10	7:00	7:49	7:39	6:50	8:23	5:00	8:01	4:41	8:11	5:01
11	7:01	7:47	7:40	6:49	8:25	4:59	8:02	4:41	8:10	5:02
12	7:02	7:45	7:42	6:47	8:26	4:58	8:03	4:41	8:10	5:04
13	7:04	7:43	7:43	6:45	8:28	4:57	8:04	4:41	8:09	5:05
14	7:05	7:41	7:44	6:43	8:29	4:56	8:05	4:41	8:09	5:06
15	7:06	7:40	7:46	6:41	8:30	4:55	8:06	4:41	8:08	5:07
16	7:07	7:38	7:47	6:39	8:32	4:54	8:06	4:41	8:07	5:09
17	7:09	7:36	7:49	6:38	8:33	4:53	8:07	4:42	8:07	5:10
18	7:10	7:34	7:50	6:36	8:35	4:52	8:08	4:42	8:06	5:11
19	7:11	7:32	7:51	6:34	8:36	4:51	8:08	4:42	8:05	5:13
20	7:13	7:30	7:53	6:32	8:37	4:50	8:09	4:43	8:05	5:14
21	7:14	7:28	7:54	6:30	8:39	4:49	8:09	4:43	8:04	5:16
22	7:15	7:26	7:56	6:29	8:40	4:48	8:10	4:44	8:03	5:17
23	7:16	7:24	7:57	6:27	8:42	4:47	8:10	4:44	8:02	5:19
24	7:18	7:22	7:59	6:25	8:43	4:46	8:11	4:45	8:01	5:20
25	7:19	7:20	8:00	6:24	8:44	4:46	8:11	4:46	8:00	5:21
26	7:20	7:18	8:01	6:22	8:46	4:45	8:11	4:46	7:59	5:23
27	7:22	7:16	8:03	6:20	8:47	4:45	8:12	4:47	7:58	5:24
28	7:23	7:14	8:04	6:19	8:48	4:44	8:12	4:48	7:57	5:26
29	7:24	7:12	8:06	6:17	8:49	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:56	5:27
30	7:26	7:10	8:07	6:16	8:51	4:43	8:12	4:49	7:55	5:29
31			8:09	6:14			8:12	4:50	7:53	5:30

### ZONE 3

INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:37	7:57	7:17	6:57	8:01	6:01	7:43	4:30	8:04	4:39
02	6:38	7:55	7:18	6:55	8:02	6:00	7:44	4:30	8:04	4:40
03	6:40	7:53	7:19	6:53	8:04	5:58	7:45	4:30	8:04	4:41
04	6:41	7:51	7:21	6:51	8:05	4:57	7:47	4:29	8:04	4:42
05	6:42	7:49	7:22	6:49	8:07	4:55	7:48	4:29	8:03	4:43
06	6:44	7:47	7:23	6:47	8:08	4:54	7:49	4:29	8:03	4:44
07	6:45	7:45	7:25	6:45	8:10	4:53	7:50	4:29	8:03	4:45
08	6:46	7:43	7:26	6:43	8:11	4:51	7:51	4:28	8:03	4:47
09	6:48	7:41	7:28	6:41	8:13	4:50	7:52	4:28	8:02	4:48
10	6:49	7:39	7:29	6:40	8:14	4:49	7:53	4:28	8:02	4:49
11	6:50	7:37	7:30	6:38	8:16	4:47	7:54	4:28	8:02	4:50
12	6:52	7:35	7:32	6:36	8:17	4:46	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:51
13	6:53	7:33	7:33	6:34	8:18	4:45	7:55	4:28	8:01	4:53
14	6:54	7:31	7:35	6:32	8:20	4:44	7:56	4:29	8:00	4:54
15	6:55	7:29	7:36	6:30	8:21	4:43	7:57	4:29	7:59	4:55
16	6:57	7:27	7:37	6:28	8:23	4:42	7:58	4:29	7:59	4:57
17	6:58	7:25	7:39	6:26	8:24	4:41	7:59	4:29	7:58	4:58
18	6:59	7:23	7:40	6:25	8:26	4:40	7:59	4:30	7:57	4:59
19	7:01	7:21	7:42	6:23	8:27	4:39	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:01
20	7:02	7:19	7:43	6:21	8:29	4:38	8:00	4:30	7:56	5:02
21	7:03	7:17	7:45	6:19	8:30	4:37	8:01	4:31	7:55	5:04
22	7:05	7:15	7:46	6:18	8:31	4:36	8:01	4:31	7:54	5:05
23	7:06	7:13	7:48	6:16	8:33	4:35	8:02	4:32	7:53	5:07
24	7:07	7:11	7:49	6:14	8:34	4:34	8:02	4:33	7:52	5:08
25	7:09	7:09	7:50	6:12	8:35	4:34	8:03	4:33	7:51	5:10
26	7:10	7:07	7:52	6:11	8:37	4:33	8:03	4:34	7:50	5:11
27	7:11	7:05	7:53	6:09	8:38	4:32	8:03	4:35	7:49	5:13
28	7:13	7:03	7:55	6:08	8:39	4:32	8:03	4:36	7:48	5:14
29	7:14	7:01	7:56	6:06	8:41	4:31	8:04	4:36	7:47	5:16
30	7:15	6:59	7:58	6:04	8:42	4:31	8:04	4:37	7:45	5:17
31			7:59	6:03			8:04	4:38	7:44	5:19

### ZONE 4

INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux Counties

Day	Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec		Jan	
	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
01	6:24	7:42	7:02	6:43	7:45	5:48	7:26	4:18	7:47	4:27
02	6:25	7:40	7:03	6:41	7:46	5:47	7:27	4:18	7:47	4:28
03	6:26	7:38	7:05	6:39	7:48	5:45	7:29	4:18	7:47	4:29
04	6:27	7:36	7:06	6:37	7:49	5:44	7:30	4:17	7:47	4:30
05	6:29	7:34	7:07	6:35	7:51	5:43	7:31	4:17	7:47	4:31
06	6:30	7:32	7:09	6:33	7:52	5:41	7:32	4:17	7:46	4:32
07	6:31	7:30	7:10	6:31	7:54	5:40	7:33	4:17	7:46	4:33
08	6:33	7:28	7:11	6:30	7:55	5:39	7:34	4:17	7:46	4:35
09	6:34	7:27	7:13	6:28	7:57	5:37	7:35	4:16	7:46	4:36
10	6:35	7:25	7:14	6:26	7:58	5:36	7:36	4:16	7:45	4:37
11	6:36	7:23	7:15	6:24	7:59	5:35	7:37	4:16	7:45	4:38
12	6:38	7:21	7:17	6:22	7:01	5:34	7:38	4:17	7:44	4:39
13	6:39	7:19	7:18	6:20	7:02	5:33	7:39	4:17	7:44	4:41
14	6:40	7:17	7:19	6:18	7:04	5:31	7:39	4:17	7:43	4:42
15	6:41	7:15	7:21	6:17	7:05	5:30	7:40	4:17	7:43	4:43
16	6:43	7:13	7:22	6:15	7:07	5:29	7:41	4:17	7:42	4:45
17	6:44	7:11	7:24	6:13	7:08	5:28	7:42	4:18	7:41	4:46
18	6:45	7:09	7:25	6:11	7:09	5:27	7:42	4:18	7:41	4:47
19	6:47	7:07	7:26	6:09	7:11	5:26	7:43	4:18	7:40	4:49
20	6:48	7:05	7:28	6:08	7:12	5:26	7:43	4:19	7:39	4:50
21	6:49	7:03	7:29	6:06	7:13	5:25	7:44	4:19	7:38	4:51
22	6:50	7:01	7:31	6:04	7:15	5:24	7:44	4:20	7:38	4:53
23	6:52	6:59	7:32	6:03	7:16	5:23	7:45	4:20	7:37	4:54
24	6:53	6:57	7:33	6:01	7:18	5:22	7:45	4:21	7:36	4:56
25	6:54	6:55	7:35	5:59	7:19	5:22	7:46	4:22	7:35	4:57
26	6:56	6:53	7:36	5:58	7:20	5:21	7:46	4:22	7:34	4:59
27	6:57	6:51	7:38	5:56	7:21	5:20	7:46	4:23	7:33	5:00
28	6:58	6:49	7:39	5:54	7:23	5:20	7:46	4:24	7:32	5:02
29	6:59	6:47	7:41	5:53	7:24	5:19	7:47	4:25	7:30	5:03
30	7:01	6:45	7:42	5:51	7:25	5:19	7:47	4:25	7:29	5:05
31			7:43	5:50			7:47	4:26	7:28	5:06



## Contacts

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters  
1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701,  
Helena, MT 59620-0701 .....**406-444-2535**  
Hunter Education .....**406-444-9948**  
Wildlife Division .....**406-444-2612**  
Enforcement Division .....**406-444-2452**  
Parks Division (Montana State Parks) .....**406-444-3750**  
Deer, elk, antelope, moose, bighorn sheep,  
mountain goat, and all special drawings .....**406-444-2950**  
Resident and nonresident licensing for  
fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds,  
black bear, and mountain lion .....**406-444-2535**  
Nonresident mailing list for deer and  
elk big game combination licenses  
and regulations .....**406-444-2950**  
Hearing Impaired (use Montana  
Relay) .....**7-1-1 or 1-800-253-4091**

## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Headquarters



**REGION 1**  
490 N Meridian Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501

**REGION 2**  
3201 Spurgin Rd  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-5500

**REGION 3**  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718-5496  
(406) 994-4042

**HELENA Area Res Office  
(HARO)**  
930 Custer Ave West  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 495-3260

**BUTTE Area Res Office  
(BARO)**  
1820 Meadowlark Ln  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 494-1953

**REGION 4**  
4600 Giant Springs Rd  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 454-5840

**LEWISTOWN Area Res  
Office (LARO)**  
333 Airport Rd  
PO Box 938  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
(406) 538-4658

**REGION 5**  
2300 Lake Elmo Dr  
Billings, MT 59105  
(406) 247-2940

**REGION 6**  
1 Airport Rd  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-3700

**HAVRE Area Res Office  
(HVARO)**  
2165 Hwy 2 East  
Havre, MT 59501  
(406) 265-6177

**REGION 7**  
352 I-94 Business Loop  
PO Box 1630  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 234-0900

## Contacts Outside Fish, Wildlife & Parks

### Montana State Agencies

Agriculture  
406-444-3144  
Guides & Outfitters  
406-841-2300  
Livestock  
406-444-7323  
State Lands (DNRC)  
406-444-2074  
Tourism  
406-841-2870

### Federal Agencies

US Department of Interior (USDI)  
202-208-3100  
USDI Fish & Wildlife Service  
406-449-5225  
USDA Forest Service  
406-329-3511

### Federal Agencies continued

USDI Bureau of Land Management  
406-896-5000  
National Weather Service  
406-329-4840 (Missoula)

### Tribal Lands

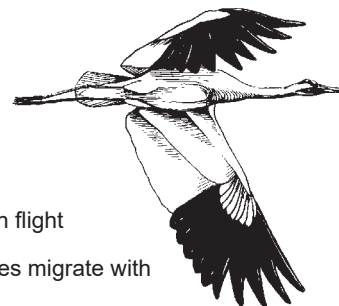
Blackfeet Reservation  
406-338-7276  
Crow Reservation  
406-638-2179  
Flathead Reservation  
406-883-2888 ext 7200  
Fort Belknap  
406-353-2205  
Fort Peck Reservation  
406-768-5305  
Northern Cheyenne Reservation  
406-477-6526  
Rocky Boy Reservation  
406-395-4207

**Please report the band number, location and date  
shot for any banded migratory game bird that  
you harvest to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at  
<http://www.reportband.gov>**

**If a Whooping Crane is sighted  
please call – 406-444-2612**

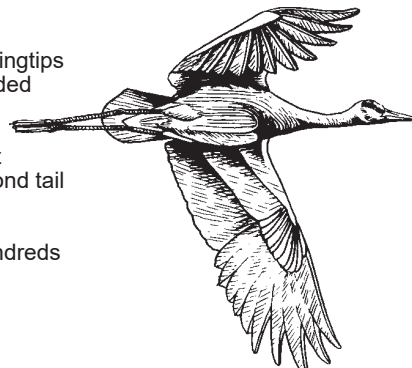
### Whooping Cranes

- White with black wingtips
- Juveniles have a mixture of white and brown body feathers, with black wingtips
- Necks long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 7 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to 7, sometimes migrate with Sandhill Cranes



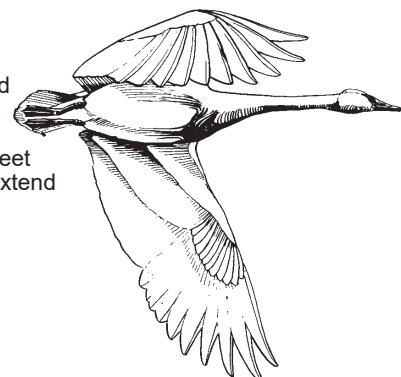
### Sandhill Cranes

- Gray, with dark wingtips
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: 5 feet
- Legs extend beyond tail in flight
- Slow wingbeat
- Flocks of 2 to hundreds



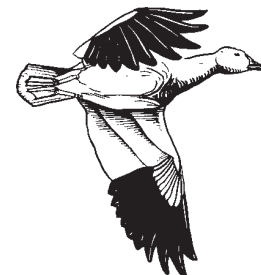
### Swans

- All white
- Neck long, extended straight forward in flight
- Wingspan: over 6 feet
- Short legs, do not extend beyond tail in flight
- Flocks of 2 to 10



### Snow Geese

- White with black wingtips
- Wingspan: 3 to 4 feet
- Short legs
- Rapid wingbeat
- Flocks of 20 to hundreds



40,000 of copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$0.10 per copy, for a total cost of \$3,956, which includes \$3,956 for printing and \$0 for distribution.